Oh MAN



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61

## OH, MAN!

A Bully Collection of Those Inimitable

Human Cartoons



With a Breezy Foreword by FRANKLIN P. ADAMS



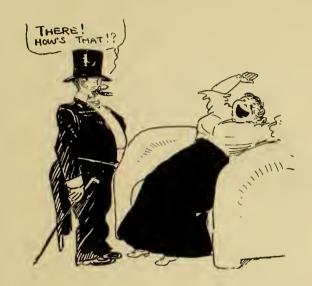
Published by
P. F. VOLLAND COMPANY
NEW YORK CHICAGO TORONTO



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CHICAGO, ILL.
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BRIGHAM ALLING IT IVERSE.





LE A CERAME ...

## **FOREWORD**

If this foreword will convince the prodigal publishers of Mr. Briggs' book that forewords are not only unnecessary and wasteful, but also harmful, I shall not have foreworded in vain. While—being a Handy Man Around the House—I was waiting for my wife to find the copy-paper I had left on my desk only ten minutes before, I again decided that this foreword business, as one of Mr. Briggs' contemporaries, whom I shall call Rube Goldberg, for that is his name, says is all wrong, Agamemnon, it's all wrong. It is overdone. I don't want Mr. H. G. Wells to tell me, before I read it, that Mr. Frank Swinnerton's "Nocturne" is great stuff; nor Mr. Ade to discover Kin Hubbard to me; nor even the rutilant Mr. Shaw to ballyhoo before the fascinating tent of Samuel Butler. As to the poets, I can't pick up a new volume without having Miss Amy Lowell's or Mr. Louis Untermeyer's prejudgment, without being told that Here, You Poor Ignoramus, Is a Book You Ought to Read.

Such prefaces, of course, are written by Illustrious and Discerning Persons for the purpose of introducing Obscurities to the Dub Public.

But, for me to foreword a Briggs book is not precisely an Illustrious Person introducing an Obscurity. It is more like the megaphone man on a Seeing Bangor Wagon saying, "And here, ladies and gentlemen, immediately overhead, we have the sun, a golden orb which often shines on our city." It is like George V. Hobart writing an introduction to "Macbeth".

Who, in short, am I, to introduce Briggs?

Still, I should rather write this foreword than an editorial ten years after Briggs' death, saying that we didn't appreciate him while he was here. Speaking as one who hears that appreciation so many times a day that I often want to ask people whether they forget that I too, am on the same paper, and haven't I got a little pride, and doesn't anyone ever see my stuff—speaking, I say, as one like that, I hereby go on record as declaring that we, meaning the all too human race, do appreciate him.

When people say, patronizingly, of a man like Briggs, or Charlie Chaplin, or Lew Fields, "He really is an artist," I am afflicted with vertigo and a sharp pain. Any man who can draw 365 cartoons a year,

and have every one of them true and unmalicious, and most of them satirical, with a sound comment on life, is so obviously an artist that people oughtn't to discuss it. Of course he's an artist, as is any man, in or out of journalism, who comes to bat once a day, year after year, and never fails to assemble a hit. A few days ago, when I was particularly depressed over my own ineptitude, I looked at a Briggs cartoon and sighed half enviously, half despairingly, "Gosh! doesn't the guy ever turn out a bad one?"

Take the "Oh, Man!" series. There is the theme of a novel or a short story in every one of them. Suppose Briggs had drawn as an "Oh, Man!" cartoon O. Henry's "The Pendulum".

- I. Husband, accustomed to playing pool every evening at 8:15, comes home at 6:30 and finds wife missing.
- II. Reads note, "Gone to mother's. She is ill."
- III. Sits around lamenting wife's absence.
- IV. Gazes out of window, musing that he ought to have treated her better.
- V. Wife returns, "Mother wasn't really ill, so I came home."
- VI. "Well, I guess I'll go down to McCloskey's and play a little pool."

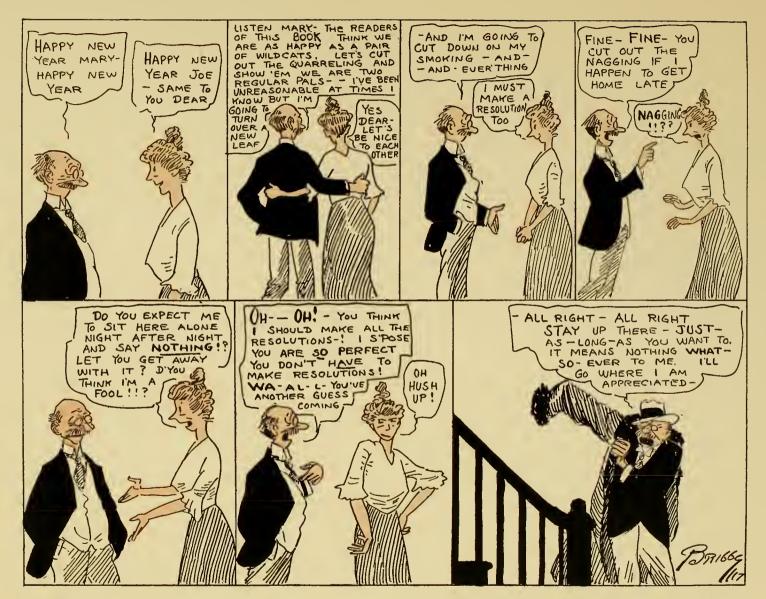
That, a perfect O. Henry story, is also a perfect "Oh, Man!" cartoon.

As long as we order lamb-stew downtown at lunch and look injured when it is served at home; as long as we fight to pay a stranger's dinner check and ask why the grocery bill is so high; as long as we hurry the domestic establishment through breakfast and waste hours in the office boasting and telling stories; as long, in brief, as the celebrated earth revolves around the no less noted sun, so long will Briggs be true and universal. And so long will there be rich material to his gifted hand.

That is all I intend to say about Briggs. No publisher, blandish me as he will, can induce me to spoil a book as good as this one. In 1950, if you want a truer record of these days than you will get in the histories, read this book again. And—I have my vanity—don't forget that this unnecessary preface was proudly written by Briggs' friend,

New York, June 14, 1919.

FRANKLIN P. ADAMS.







IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

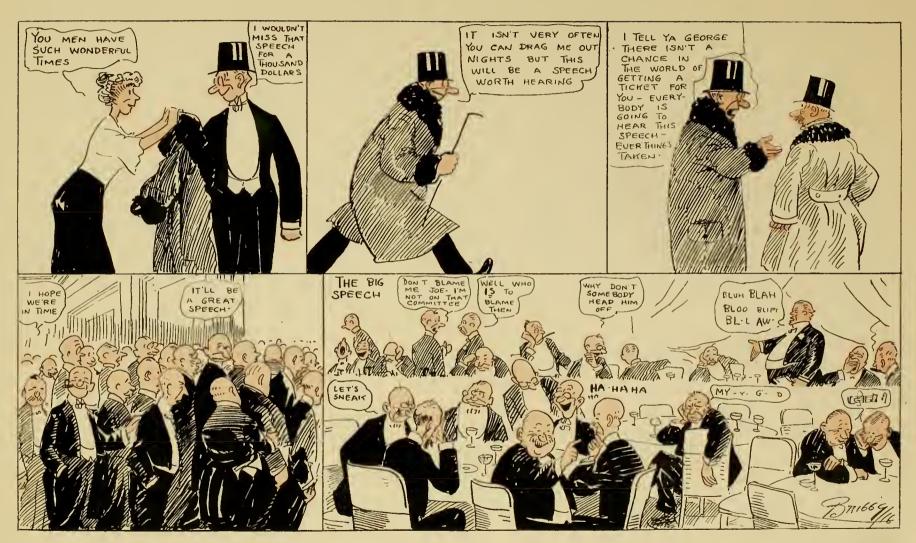




A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



BREAKING OF STUD



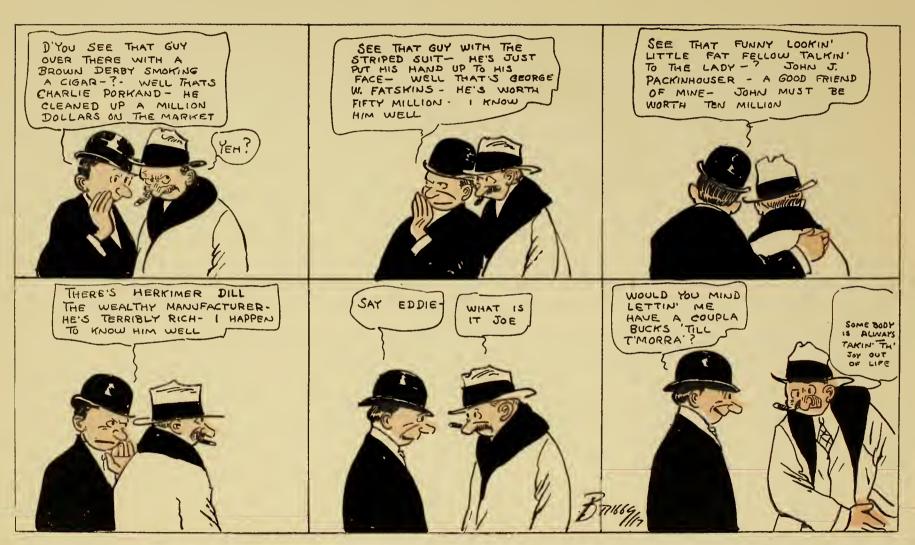
OH, MAN!





MOVIE OF A MAN AFRAID OF BEING CALLED ON FOR A SPEECH



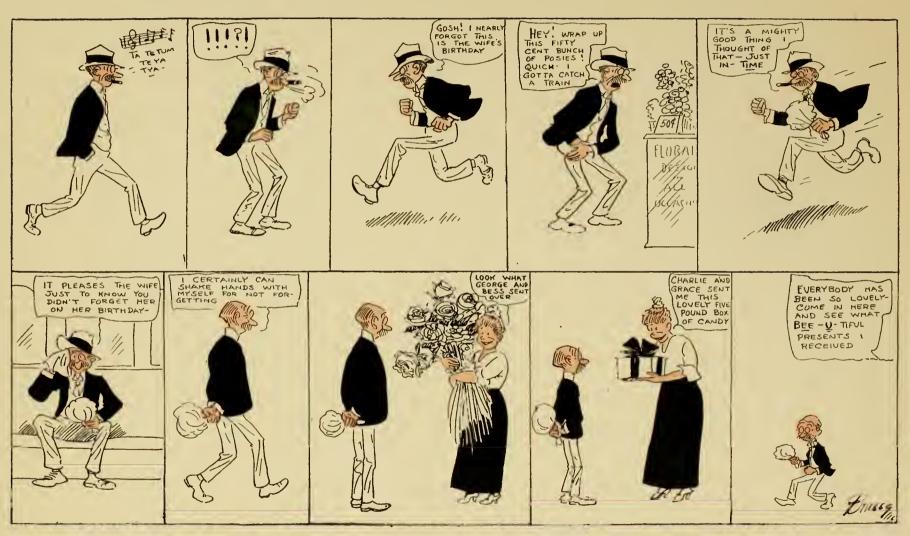


SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE



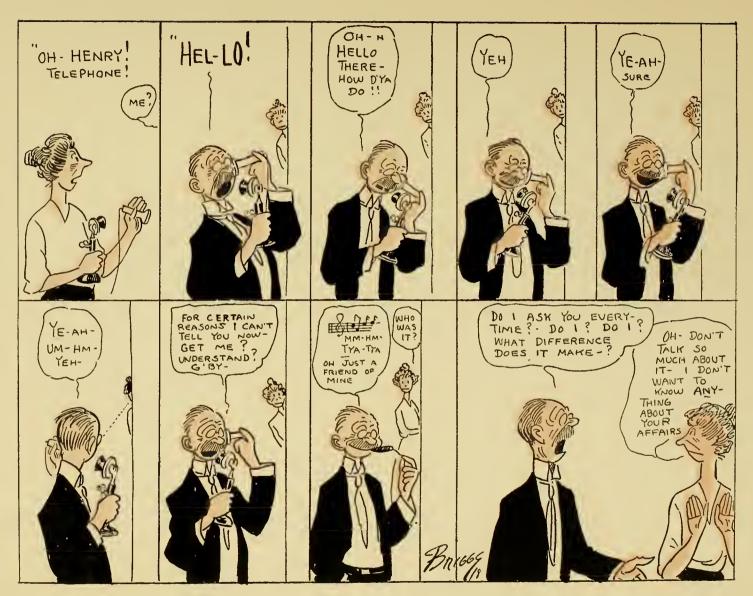
AT HOME-

(



OH, MAN!





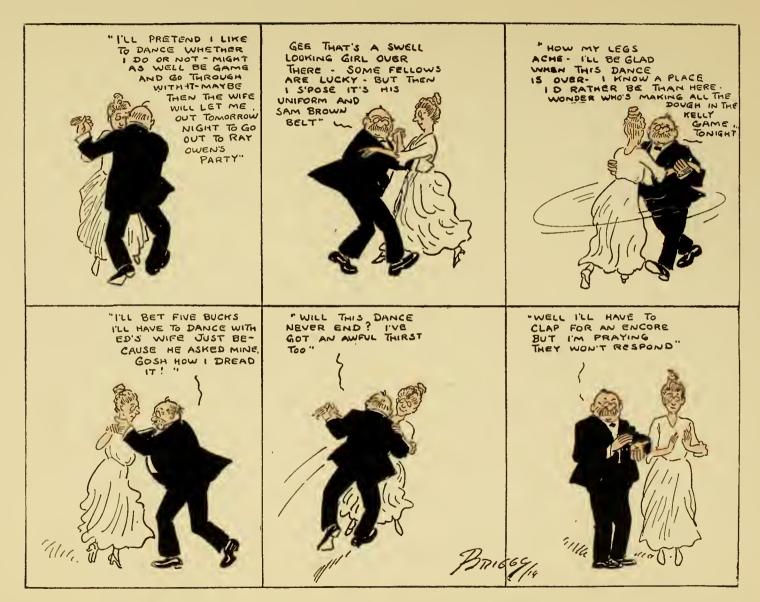
IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE





WONDER WHAT A MAN THINKS ABOUT WHILE DANCING WITH HIS WIFE





MOVIE OF A POOR STORY TELLER





OH, MAN!





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE

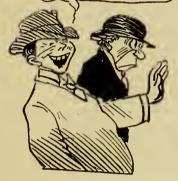
HA.HA - NO MORE

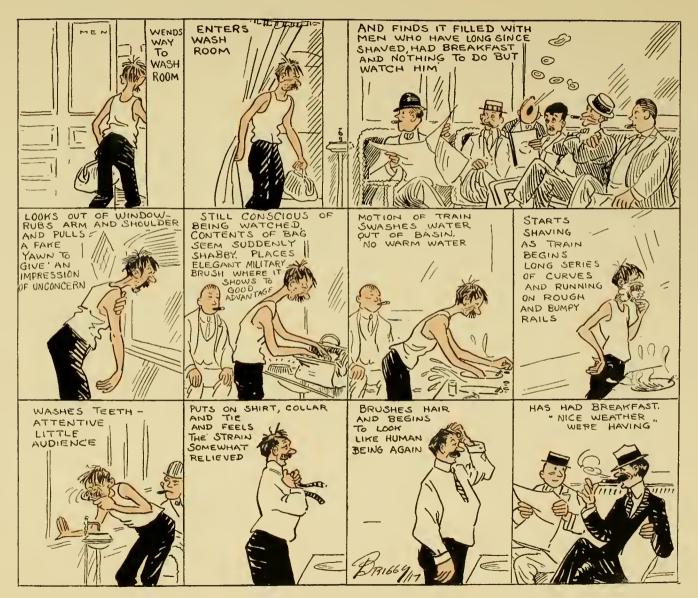
COUNTRY LIFE FOR

ME IN THE WINTER 
A NICE LITTLE WARM

FLAT FOR ME - NO

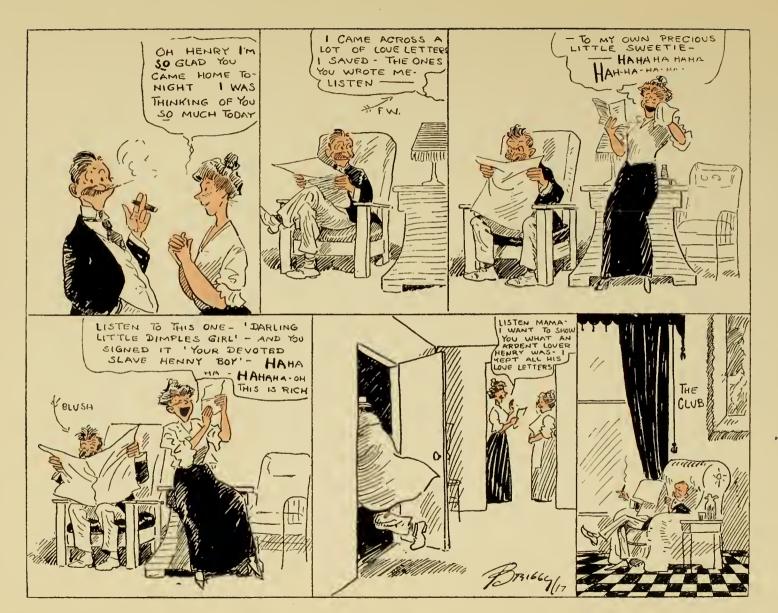
MORE COAL WORRY



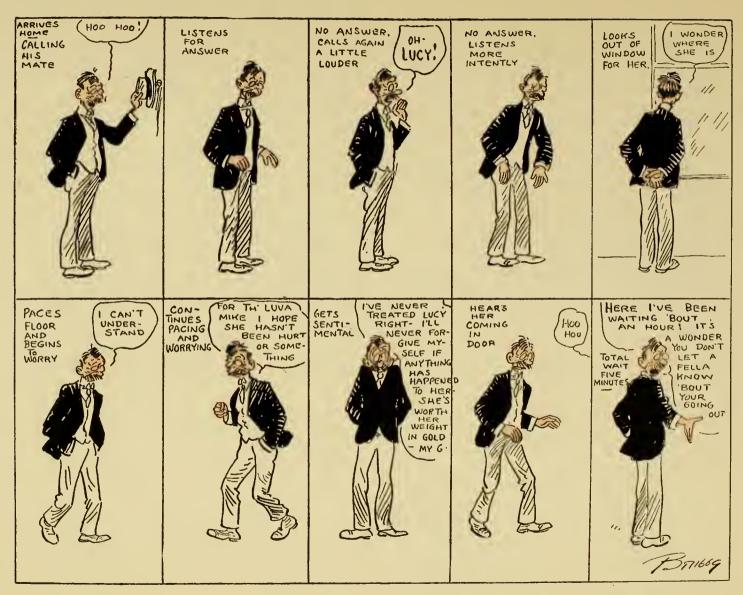


MOVIE OF A MAN IN A PULLMAN WASHROOM



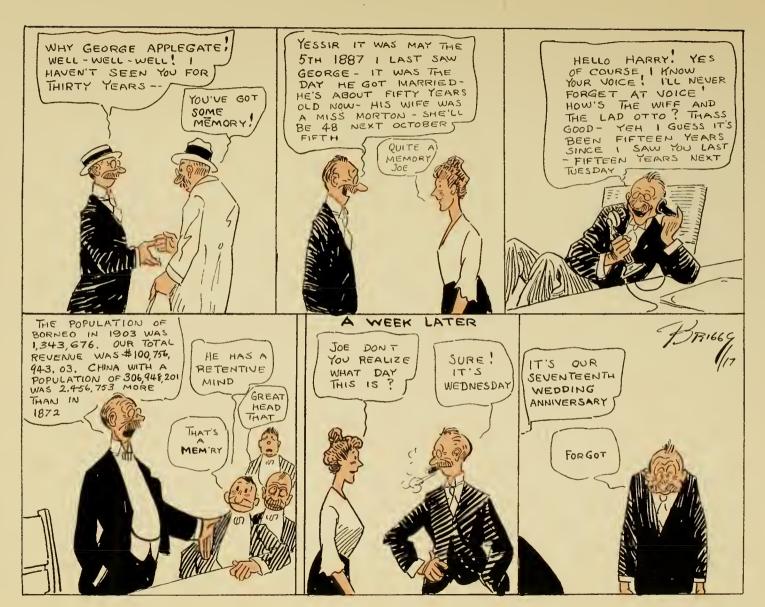






MOVIE OF A MAN ARRIVING HOME EARLY (FOR ONCE)



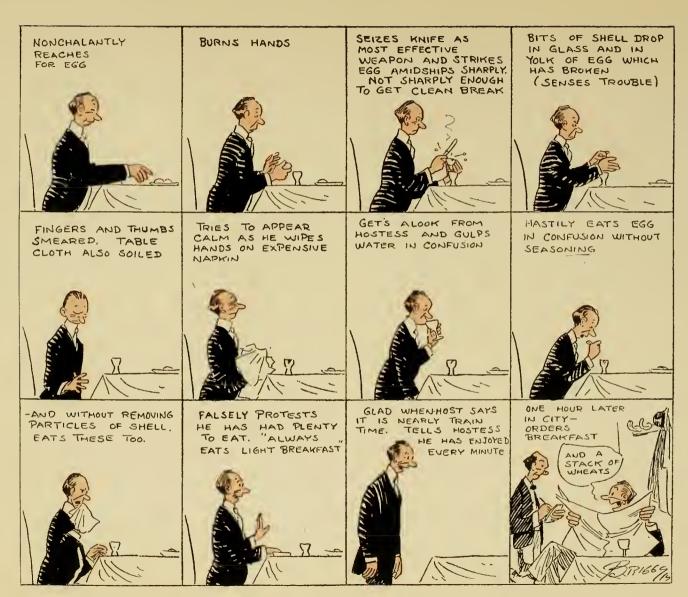






OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





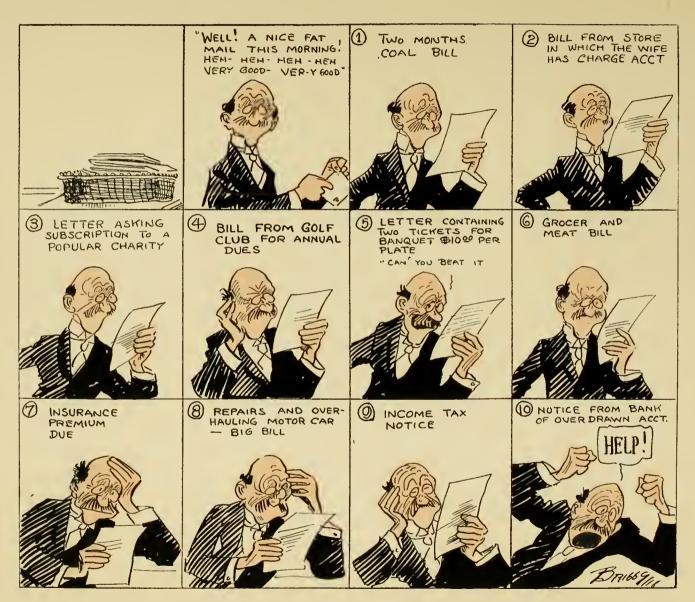
MOVIE OF A GUEST CRACKING A THREE MINUTE EGG





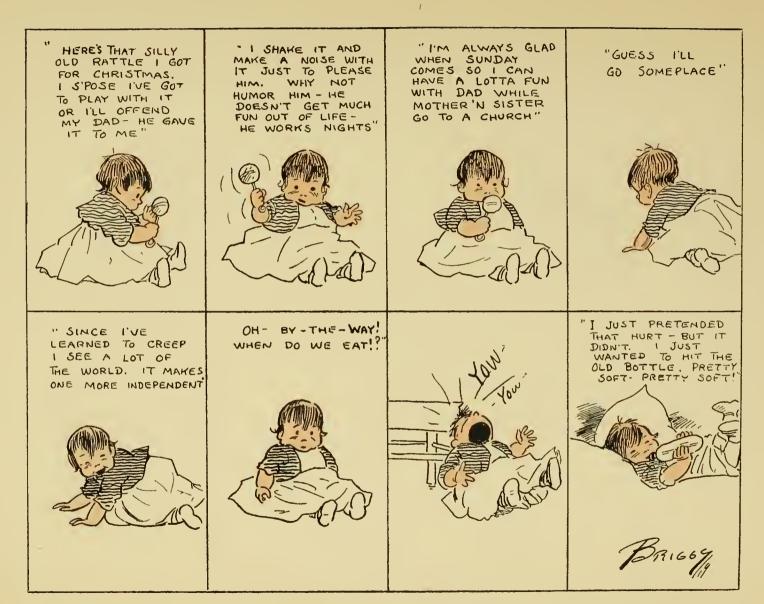
IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





MOVIE OF A MAN OPENING MAIL ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH





WONDER WHAT A TEN MONTHS OLD BABY THINKS ABOUT





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

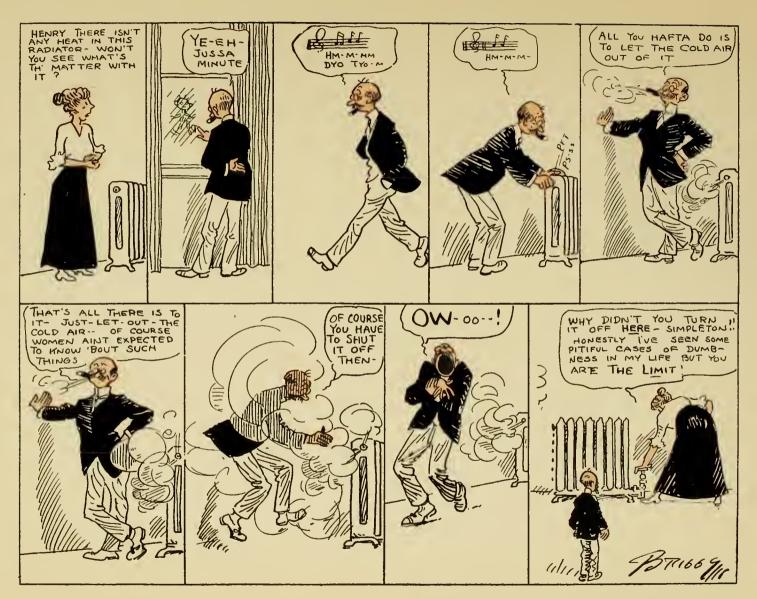
HEY KEEP THAT MACHINE QUIET A MINUTE I CAN'T HEAR A THING





MOVIE OF A BUSY BUSINESS MAN DICTATING A LETTER TO HIS STENOG



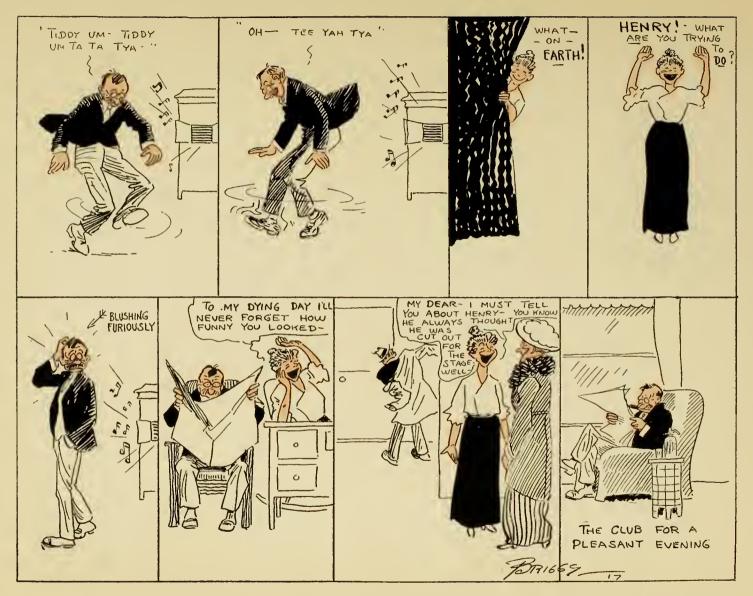


A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE









IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!



PRETTY LUCKY THEY HAVE ME FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR, BELIEVE ME I'VE PULLED THIS SHOW TOGETHER AND MADE IT A SUCCESS



PRINCIPAL ACTOR
OCCASIONALLY JUST
SO THE AUDIENCE 'LL
REALIZE | KNOW'IM
IT MAKES AN IMPRESSION



I THINK THE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE ARE IMPRESSED WITH MY PERSONAL APPEARANCE, THAT TRAP DRUMMER GIVES ME A PAINALWAYS FLIRTING WITH



IT FLATTERS THE ACTOR TOO, HELLO THERE'S CAMILLE AND ELLA BACK AGAIN, I'LL GIVE THEM A SMILE TOO JUST TO SHOW'EM I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN 'EM.



I SHALL AFFECT A
CARELESS EASY MANNER
AND LOOK THE AUDIENCE
OVER... NOT A BAD
HOUSE - NOT BAD



I WONDER WHO
CAMILLE IS FLIRTING
WITH IN THE AUDIENCE.
I'LL GIVE HIM A NASTY
LOOK AND SQUELCH IM.



NOW FOR A LITTLE FANCY WORK, I'LL BET THE AUDIENCE WATCHES ME AS MUCH AS ANY OF THESE BUM ACTORS



WELL I'VE PUT THAT ACT OVER AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D DO WITHOUT ME -

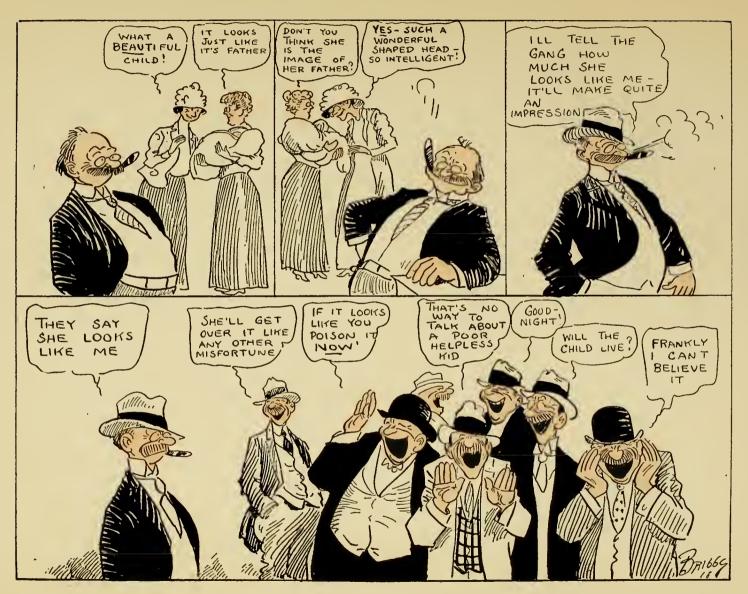






MOVIE OF A MAN WITH A TIME-TABLE





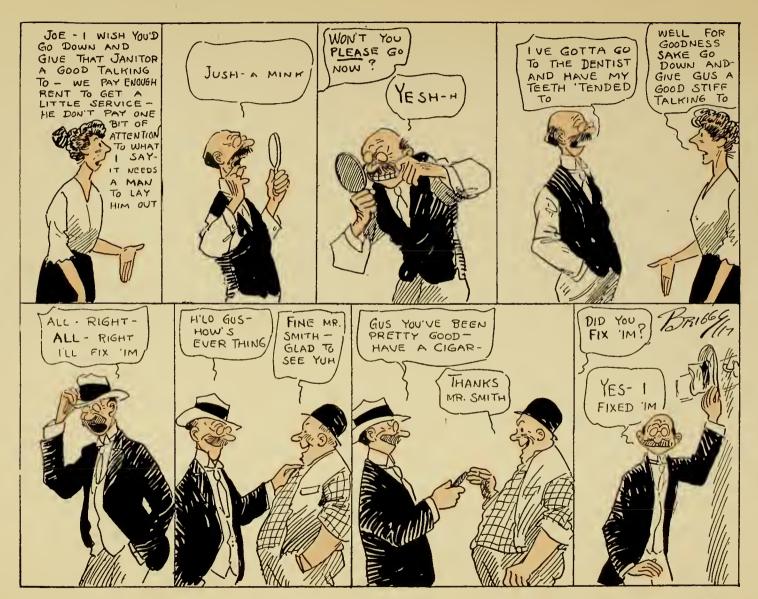
SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





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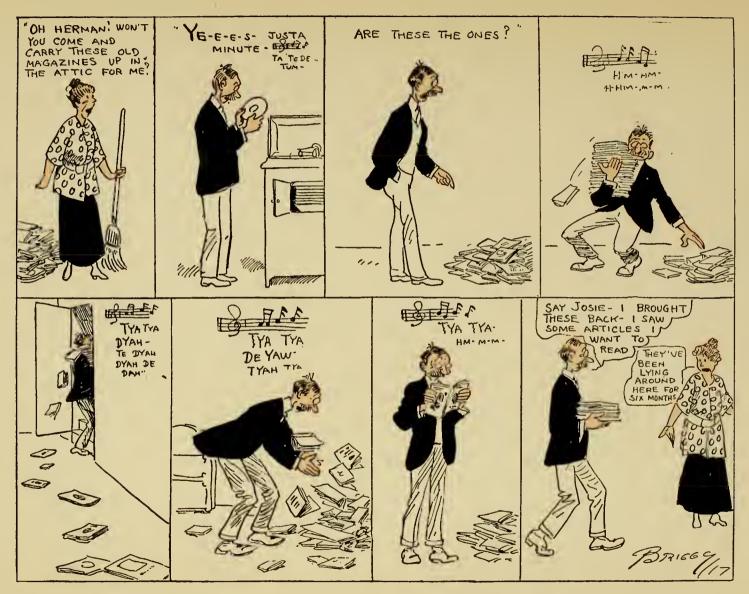
BOSS LEAVES





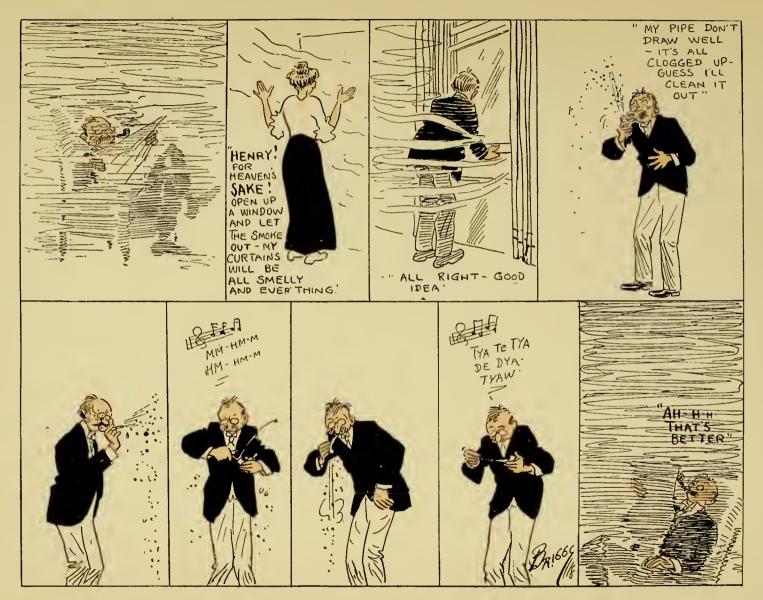
OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE



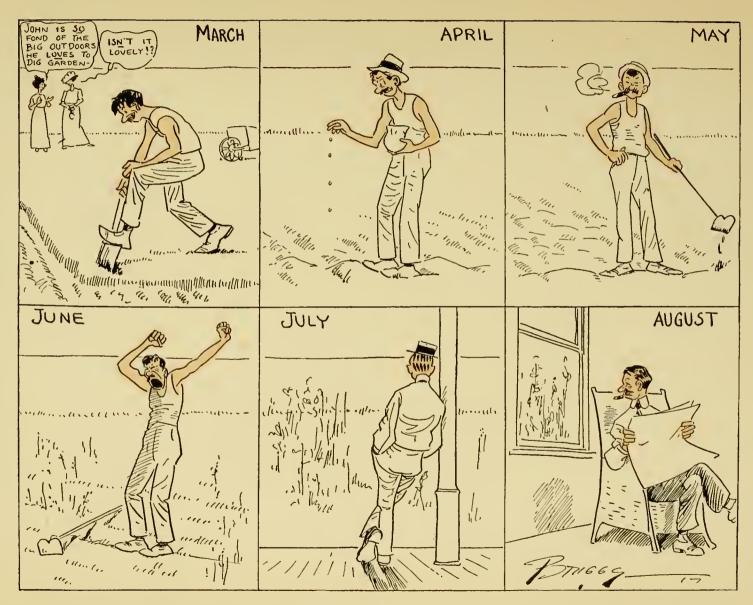






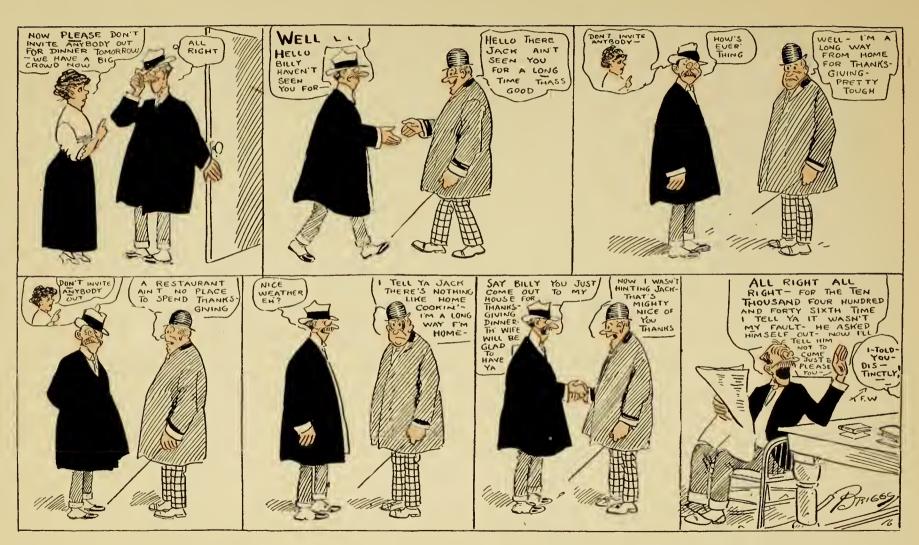
IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





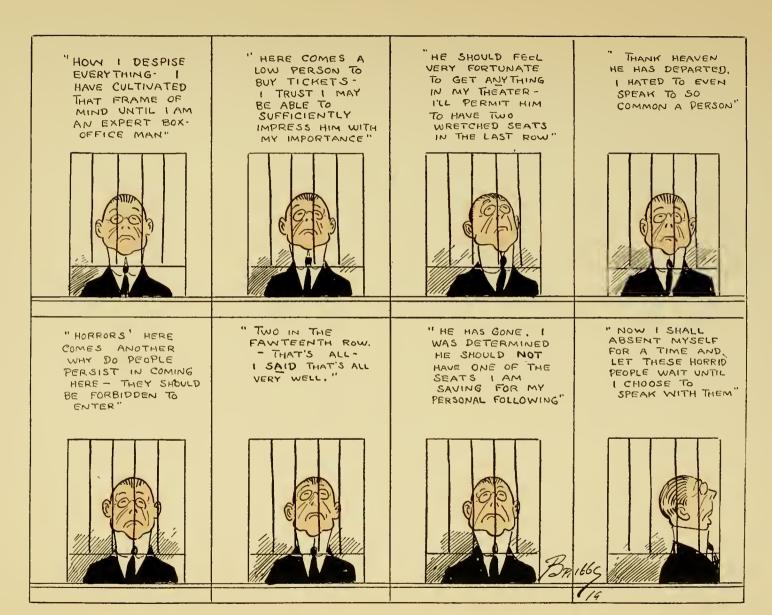
THE ELECTRIC FAN AND THE COLD DRINK. (HARD AT WORK)





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





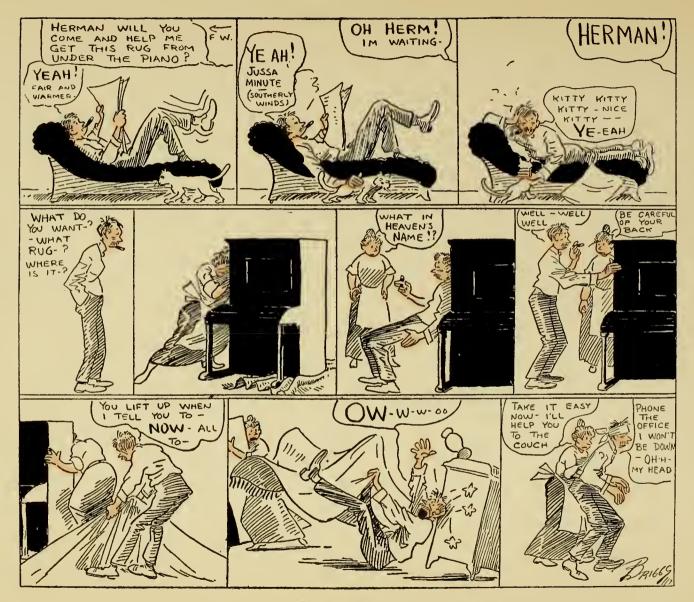


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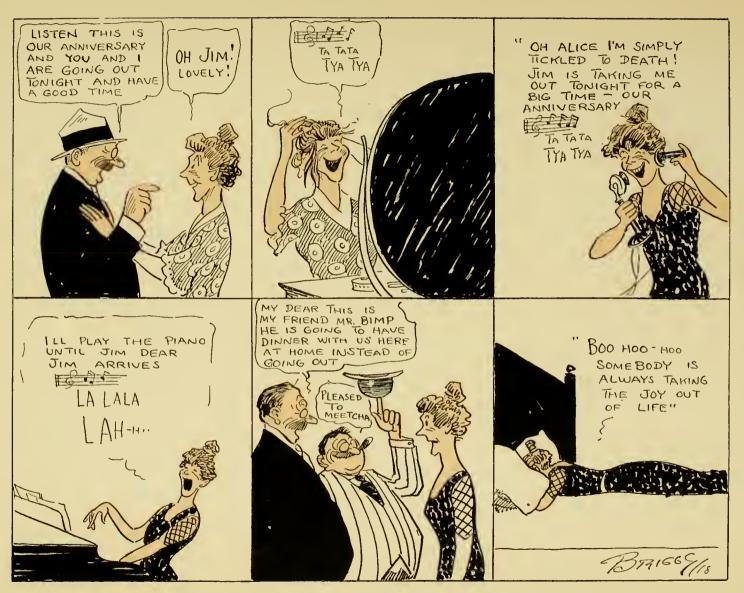
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A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE





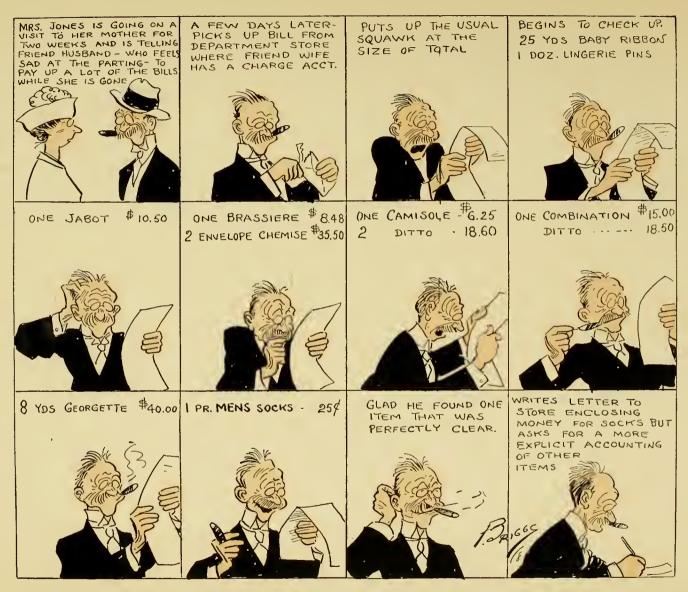
SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





MOVIE OF A MAN CHECKING UP FRIEND WIFE'S ACCOUNT





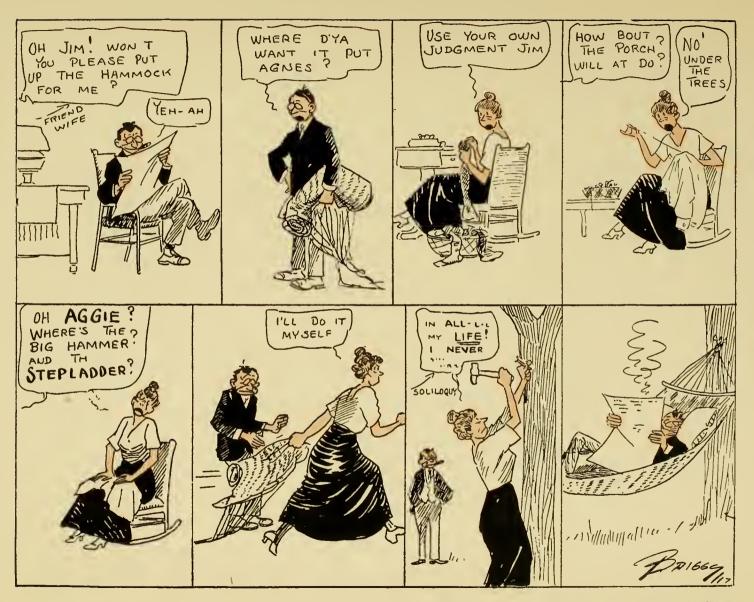
- THE BIRDS AND FLOWERS AND ALL THE WONDERFUL - BEE- U-TIFUL WORKS OF NATURE ON OUR PLANET





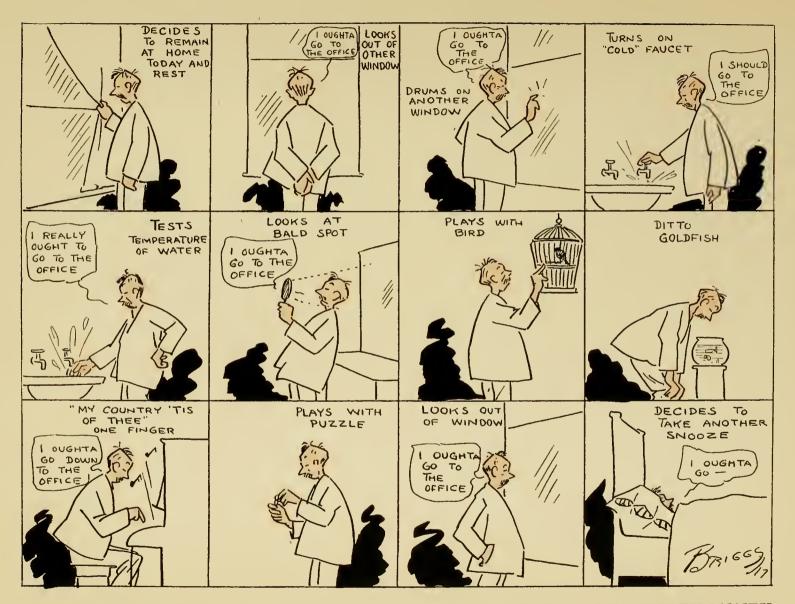
SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE

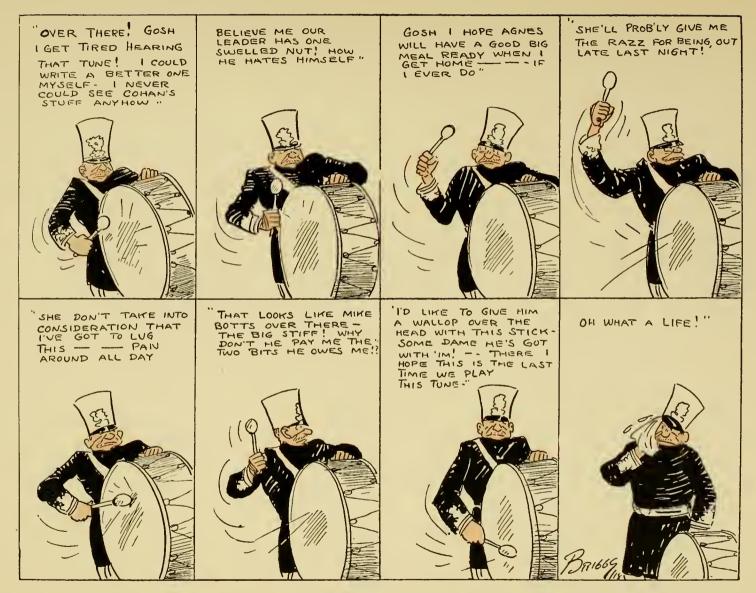




MOVIE OF A MAN AT HOME WHOSE TIME IS SUPPOSED TO BE WORTH MONEY



ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME



WONDER WHAT A BASS DRUMMER THINKS ABOUT





OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!

-AND A \$4,60 TAXI
BILL BESIDES! SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS
TAKING JOY OUT OF
LIFE- OH RAWTHUH!





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!





OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!

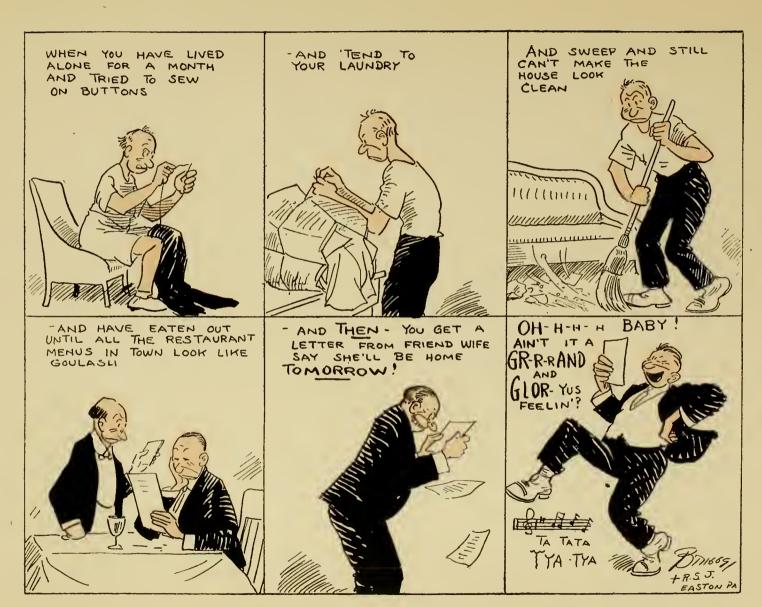




MOVIE OF A BUSY MAN WRITING TO FRIEND WIFE

THIS MAY HAPPEN ONCE IN FIFTY YEARS.





OH, AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELIN'!





MOVIE OF A MAN AND A NIGHT THUNDERSTORM



the state of the s

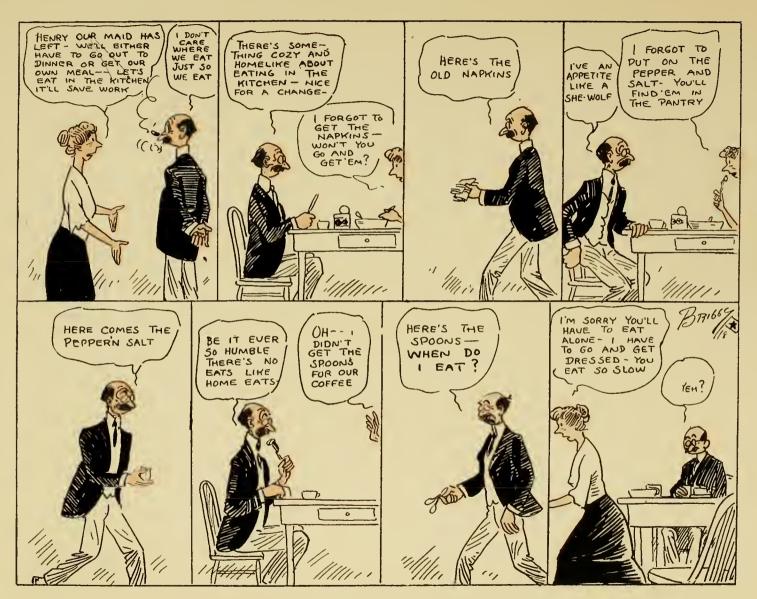






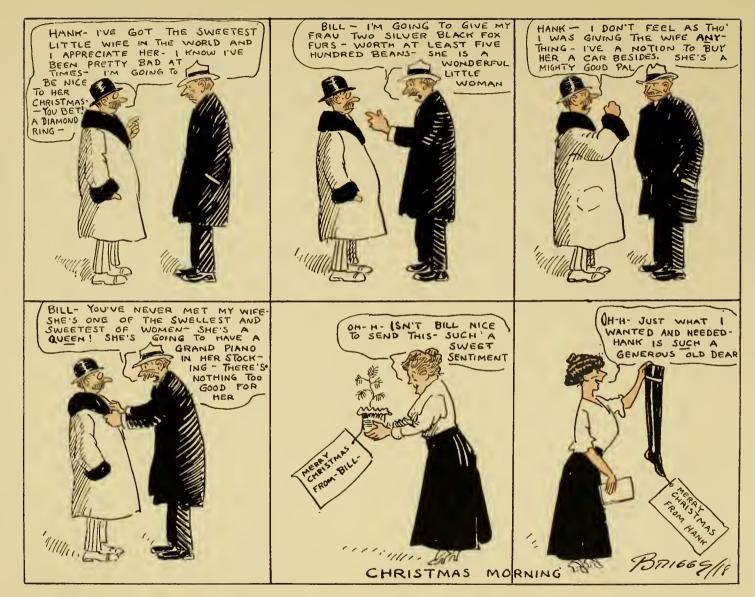
THE HIGH COST OF THANKSGIVING-OR SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE





IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!

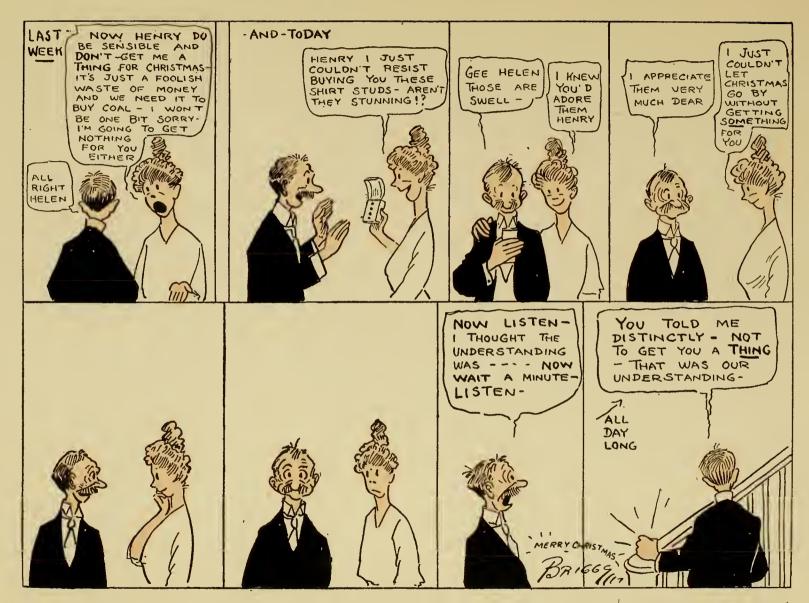
THEY DON'T GET IT
THAT CHEAP! NO.SIR!
THAT'S JUST LIKE AS
WOMAN - NO BUSINESS
ABILITY WHATSOEVER
AND YET
THEY
WANTA
WOTE





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IT HAPPENS IN THE BEST REGULATED FAMILIES!



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